



MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF THE RANDELL COTTAGE WRITERS TRUST

Annual General Meeting on 1 June 2023, 12 noon, at the Alliance Française.

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AGENDA:

1. Welcome: The president Leslie Brown, welcomed the attendees which numbered 15: Dame Fiona Kidman, Leslie Brown, Christine and Nick Hurley, Tim Gruar, Susan Stevens, Jie Fang, Mary-Jane Monaghan, Jessie Munro, Redmer Yska, Rachel Underwood, Sian Robyns, Francis Cooke and Robyn Skrzyńska. (Quorum of 10 needed.)
2. Apologies: Renee Taylor, Sarah Dennis, Wilf and Lyndal Layburn, Jackie Chong, Gillian Cameron, Sheila Williams, Linda Burgess, Maggie Rainey-Smith, Tracey Schuyt, Pip Murdoch, Des Smith, John Joliffe and Juliet Smith. Accepted RS/FK
3. Minutes of the 25 May 2022, Annual General Meeting of Friends of the Randell Cottage Writers' Trust were received and approved. LB/CH
4. Matters arising from the Minutes: Christine raised the point that the name of the anniversary publication had been changed to Room To Write.
5. The Annual Report from the FRC Committee Chair, Leslie Brown, was received and considered. LB/RS Christine confirmed that Wellington Rotary had made a commitment to give umbrella support to the WCC Heritage Week. Rachel endorsed our successful collaboration with the Friends of the Turnbull Library for the National Library event. Tim added that several of our past resident writers had been active eg Rose Liu at

Auckland Writers' Week, and Redmer Yska, committee member, had recently published his book on Katherine Mansfield.

Here is the report:

Friends of the Randell Cottage Writers Trust President's Report 2022 – 2023 Here are some highlights of the 2022 – 2023 year, my fourth as President:

Creative New Zealand Funding

I report each year that as the Trust is on an annual funding cycle with Creative New

Zealand this means annual applications with the attendant uncertainty about whether the application would be approved. So, I should start by thanking retiring trustee Sian Robyns and Trust Chair Christine Hurley for carrying this load and again getting to a successful conclusion.

New Zealand Writer 2022

Rose Lu has been and gone. Her project, which she spoke about at our last AGM, is to write her first novel. This follows the story of Moon, a second-generation Chinese-New Zealander, and Hsiao-Han, who migrated to Aotearoa New Zealand in her mid-twenties.

2022 Open Day

After the surge of Delta put an end to our hope of a 2021 Open Day this time providence smiled on us. The day began with an event to mark the 20 th anniversary and unveil the plaque we Friends funded. Then in the afternoon came Open Day with over 100 visitors passing through the cottage. Planning will soon be in hand for our 2023 Open Day.

French Writers

With borders now opened the Cottage welcomed the long delayed French writer, Caroline Laurent, to take up her residency in instalments. She was here for the excellent event at the residence of the French Ambassador officially launching the 20 th anniversary book, "Room to Write". And she will be back with us at the end of 2023.

The Randell Cottage residency is supported by Creative New Zealand, the New-Zealand France Friendship Fund, the French Embassy and the Wellington City

Council. We also have welcomed her successor, Sedef Ecer, who spoke at the recent National Library event.

New Zealand Writer 2023

Rachel O'Neill is with us. They will be speaking to us shortly so I will say no more.

More recently we held a successful event at the National Library on 7 March with French writer, Sedef Ecer, and the latest in the Trust's series of videos – this of Caroline Laurent. Again a collaboration with the Friends of the Turnbull I hope such joint efforts become an annual fixture.

Next to last. We have welcomed our new Treasurer, Jie Fang, and two new committee members, Redmer Yska and Pip Murdoch.

Conclusion: I thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you at our next event!

Leslie Brown

President of the Friends

1 June 2023

6.The Annual Financial Statements from the Treasurer. Jie Fang, were received and considered. LB/FK Jie commented that more than half of the annual subscriptions had been paid. Robyn commented that members had been generous adding donations when paying their subscriptions.

The recommendation regarding the annual subscriptions for the year (2024/25) was received and considered. The motion that subscriptions for 2024/25 be set at \$20.00 for seniors, \$20.00 for students after 3 years. \$35.00 for individuals, \$50.00 for families and \$100.00 for businesses and free for students for a maximum of 3 years was carried. LB/ FK

7.Election of the Officers of the Society:

Dame Fiona Kidman thanked outgoing President, Leslie Brown, on behalf of the Friends for his four year contribution. Robyn presented him with a book voucher and card.

President: Dame Fiona Kidman was elected unanimously. LB/RS

She made a short speech emphasising she preferred to be called Chair and that she saw the Friends, a group of volunteers, standing for raising funds to maintain the Cottage, organising the annual Open Day, making events for members worthwhile and generally believing in the concept of the Cottage. She made it clear she was in the role for one year only.

Treasurer: Jie Fang was elected unanimously. LB/RS

Secretary: Robyn Skrzyńska was elected unanimously. LB/ FK

10. Election of at least three Ordinary Members of the Executive Committee.

Tim Gruar, Pip Murdoch, Susan Stevens and Redmer Yska were nominated and elected unanimously as ordinary members of the Executive Committee. LB/FK
Christine Hurley will continue to serve on the Executive Committee *ex officio* as Chair of the Trust in accordance with para 14.2 of the Rules. (Below)

14.2. The Chair of the Trustees of the Randell Cottage Writers Trust from time to time or his or her nominee shall be, *ex-officio*, one of the members of the Executive Committee and may be an Officer.

In accordance with the Rules, two may be nominated by the Trust committee. Christine Hurley, Chair of the Trust, communicated earlier that this offer was not being taken up.

11. Honorary Member: Our rules provide for Honorary members as well as Life Members. The Friends' committee has considered a proposal that Neil Harrap become an Honorary Member of the Friends. He was instrumental in the enabling the Randell Price family to buy the Cottage for restoration by bidding on their behalf. In addition he has kept an eye on the cottage and its residents for many years from his vantage point across the road. Most recently he was very welcoming to Sedef when she arrived. He also checked on her at the time of the recent earthquake as well as helping with a problem she had with the heat pump. Neil has been determined to protect the local character against the risk of unsympathetic development. The motion was put and carried. LB/FK

12. Donor recognition: we are increasingly getting good donations along with our members' subscriptions. Donors would be acknowledged in the Friends' Newsletter and on the website unless privacy is requested.

At a recent Committee meeting the following categories were proposed to recognise these people:

Bronze donor: \$100.00

Silver donor : \$250.00

Gold donor: \$500.00

The motion was put and carried. LB/ M-J M

The business part of the meeting was followed by a conversation, conducted by **Sian Robyns** , with our Randell Cottage resident NZ writer, **Rachel O'Neill**.

Coffee, tea and juice were served at the end of the meeting.